

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION  
AND PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

**D.P.U. 22-95**

**New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 72, New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” or the “Company”), located at 170 Data Drive, Waltham, Massachusetts, 02451, has filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) in connection with the Company’s proposal to separate an approximate 1.85-mile segment of its existing 115 kilovolt (“kV”) overhead transmission lines, currently installed on double circuit lattice towers, onto two distinct sets of structures (the “Project”). The Project will be located within an existing electric transmission line right-of-way (“ROW”) that extends from National Grid’s Pottersville Switching Station in Somerset, Massachusetts, crosses the Taunton River into Fall River, Massachusetts and continues easterly within the ROW to Sykes Road Substation in Fall River. With certain exceptions, the Project will be constructed entirely within the Company’s existing ROW. The Project also includes some modifications at the Sykes Road Substation to interconnect the two lines into the station. The Company seeks a determination from the Department that the Project is necessary, serves the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest under G.L. c. 164, § 72. The Department will determine whether the Company’s Petition should be approved, and if so, what conditions are required.

**The Department will conduct a remote public comment hearing regarding the Project using Zoom videoconferencing at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, 2023.** Attendees can join by clicking (or entering) the following link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87453301170> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at (646) 558-8656 (not toll free) and then enter the Webinar ID: 874-5330-1170.

If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public comment hearing, please send an email to [geneen.bartley@mass.gov](mailto:geneen.bartley@mass.gov) with your name, email address, and mailing address by **Wednesday, March 29, 2023**. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message at (617) 305-3529 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by **March 29, 2023**. Additional commenters may be allowed during the public comment hearing, at the discretion of the Hearing Officer.


The Department will accept written comments on the Project. Written comments will be most useful to the Department if submitted by **Tuesday, April 18, 2023**. Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Department proceeding beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or submitting written comments may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. A petition to intervene or participate must be filed with the Department in electronic format, by email or email attachment, to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and to [joan.evans@mass.gov](mailto:joan.evans@mass.gov) no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, April 18, 2023**.

The Department has created a special information webpage for this proceeding and will update it during the course of the proceeding: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/somerset-fall-river-line-separation>. You can also access the webpage by scanning the QR code below.



## **Public Comment Hearing**

At the public comment hearing, the Company will present an overview of the Project. Public officials and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the proposed Project. The public comment hearing will be transcribed by a court reporter. A recording of the public comment hearing will be posted to the Department's YouTube channel after the hearing, at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk1Pj6xxSKww-Kr26IEZVTA>.

Simultaneous English-to-Portuguese interpretation will be provided. All attendees should select their preferred language to hear the Interpreter translate into that language. Press the globe icon  and then choose the desired language.

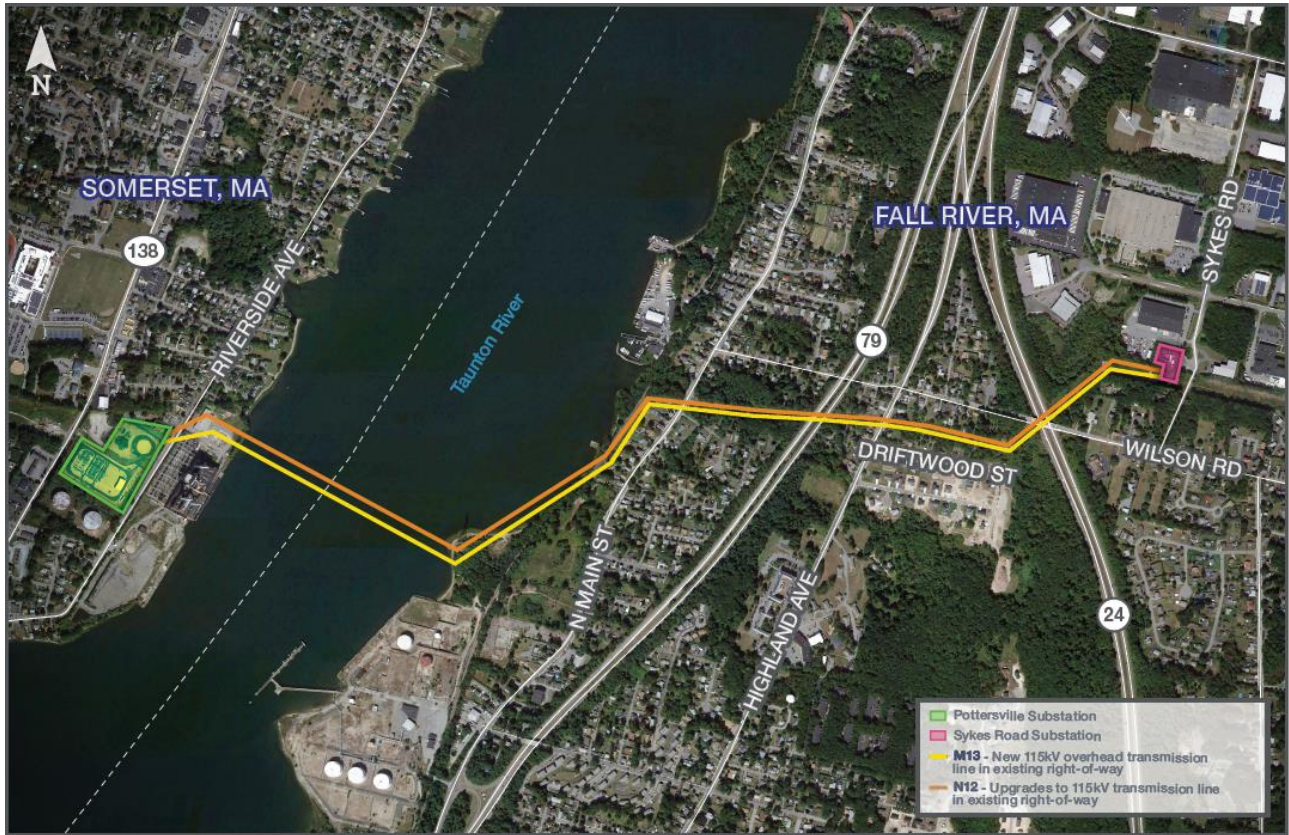
## **Project Description**

The Company maintains that the Project is needed to ensure the reliability of the electric transmission system in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Specifically, the Company states that separating the lines will reduce the chances of an outage affecting both existing lines, and provide a more reliable and robust transmission system.

The Project will be located mostly within an existing electric transmission line ROW that extends from National Grid's Pottersville Switching Station in Somerset, to Sykes Road Substation in Fall River. This ROW is currently occupied by two 115 kV overhead transmission circuits called the N12 and the M13 Lines. For approximately 1.85 miles, these lines are primarily supported on double circuit steel lattice towers (i.e., the two circuits, each consisting of three individual phase conductors, share the same series of towers within the ROW). The Project involves the removal of the existing double circuit steel lattice towers and the construction of two sets of single circuit steel monopoles and conductors to carry the separated N12 and M13 Lines. The two existing 300-foot tall river crossing towers are to remain in place. The wires will also be upgraded to support additional electric current.

The lines currently cross the Taunton River. The Project will require the installation of two 300-foot-tall river crossing structures, one on each side of the Taunton River. The river crossing structure requires additional real estate easements on the Fall River side of the Taunton River to maintain a safe separation distance from an existing line. The Company also secured necessary easements from the landowners around structures M13N-13 and N12-13, thereby resulting in the elimination of the need for those structures. The Project also includes some modifications at the Sykes Road Substation within the fence line to interconnect the N12 and M13 Lines into the station. These modifications include the replacement of line taps, installation of two line disconnect switches, and connections to the station bus. There will be no expansion of the footprint of the Sykes Road Substation.

**Figure 1: The Project**



An interactive map of the project location is available at the following link: <https://www.southcoastreliabilityprojects.com/N12M13-Upgrade/index.html> (under section “Project Location”).

### **Intervention and Participation**

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Department proceeding beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or submitting written comments may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. Intervention as a party allows the person or group to participate fully in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding, including the right to participate in evidentiary hearings and to appeal a final order. A limited participant may receive the documents that will be submitted to the Department and may present written argument to the Department after evidentiary hearings conclude. A limited participant, however, may not participate in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding and has no right to appeal the final order.

Any person wishing to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition with the Hearing Officer (see Filing Instructions below). A petition to intervene or be a limited participant must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03, the Department’s procedural rules including the requirement that a petition to intervene must state the manner in which the petitioner is “substantially and specifically affected” by the Company’s proposed Project. The regulations pertaining to intervention and limited participation can be found on the Department’s website at: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-petition-to-intervene-in-an-efsb-or-dpu-siting-case>.

## **Filing Instructions**

Written comments on the Project, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant in this proceeding, must be filed in two places:

First, the petition to intervene or participate, and comments, must be filed with the Department in electronic format, by email or email attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov); and to [joan.evans@mass.gov](mailto:joan.evans@mass.gov) no later than the close of business on **Tuesday, April 18, 2023**. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 22-95); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

Second, the petition or comments must be sent electronically to counsel for the Company, David S. Rosenzweig, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 99 High Street, Suite 2900, Boston, MA 02110, [drosen@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:drosen@keeganwerlin.com).

## **Public Review of the Company's Petition**

Copies of the Company's petition, including all attachments, are available for public inspection in hard-copy format at the following locations:

- Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02110
- Fall River City Clerk; One Government Center, Room 227; Fall River, MA 02722
- Fall River Public Library; 104 North Main Street; Fall River, MA 02720
- Somerset Town Clerk; Somerset Town Hall; 140 Wood Street; Somerset, MA 02726
- Somerset Public Library; 1464 County Street; Somerset, MA 02726

In addition, the Company's petition, including all attachments, are electronically available via the Department website at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber/22-95>.

The public may access the National Grid webpage for the Proposed Project in the links provided here: <https://www.southcoastreliabilityprojects.com/N12M13-Upgrade/index.html>.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, or audio format) contact the Department's ADA coordinator at [gabriella.knight@mass.gov](mailto:gabriella.knight@mass.gov).

## **Accommodation Requests**

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a complete description of the accommodation you will need and a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but we may be unable to fulfill the request. Please send your requests to: Gabriella Knight, ADA and Diversity Manager at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at [gabriella.knight@mass.gov](mailto:gabriella.knight@mass.gov).



Portuguese interpretation services will be provided for the public comment hearing. Additional language interpretation services are available upon request. Include in your request the language required, and a way to contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Hearing Officer (contact information below).

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information about intervention or participation in the proceeding may also contact the Hearing Officer at the address or telephone number below:

Joan Foster Evans, Hearing Officer  
Department of Public Utilities  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110  
[joan.evans@mass.gov](mailto:joan.evans@mass.gov)  
[\(617\) 305-3525](tel:(617)305-3525)